



OGMCOAL DNR &lt;ogmcoal@utah.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Seed mix to be used on Richfield Ranger District sink hole site**

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**Steve Christensen** <stevechristensen@utah.gov>  
To: OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:44 AM

——— Forwarded message ———

From: **Lisa Reinhart** <lreinhart@utah.gov>  
Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 1:45 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Seed mix to be used on Richfield Ranger District sink hole site  
To: Steve Christensen <stevechristensen@utah.gov>  
Cc: Vicky Miller <vmiller@bowieresources.com>

Steve, per your inquiry on the status of the Sufco sinkhole amendment (Task 5437) and the deficiency I had.... please see the 4 threads in this email. Vicky needs to resubmit the amendment with the standard of shrubs set at 0 and that should meet R645-301-356.231. This email thread is evidence of "consultation with and approval by Utah agencies responsible for the administration of forestry and wildlife programs" which in this case is the land owner and manager (FS).

I have also asked Vicky to provide evidence that the proposed reference site is representative of geology, soil, slope, and vegetation of the sinkhole. Furthermore, I want you to know that I did tell her verbally that a survey of vegetation baseline of the reference site is NOT necessary. A map with a close up of the site showing it is within the same Ecological Site (NRCS designation) would evidence it meets the criteria. That map should be fairly easy to come up with considering I could produce one in about 30 minutes.

Let me know if you have other questions regarding this task.

Lisa Reinhart  
Environmental Scientist  
Utah Coal Program  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
(801) 538-5437, (801) 359-3940 (Fax)

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——— Forwarded message ———

From: **Lisa Reinhart** <lreinhart@utah.gov>  
Date: Mon, May 22, 2017 at 10:57 AM  
Subject: Re: Seed mix to be used on Richfield Ranger District sink hole site  
To: "Hamilton, Rob -FS" <rhamilton@fs.fed.us>, Vicky Miller <vmiller@bowieresources.com>

Since the area is so incredibly small that makes sense to me. Thanks

Lisa Reinhart  
Environmental Scientist  
Utah Coal Program  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
(801) 538-5437, (801) 359-3940 (Fax)

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On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 10:56 AM, Hamilton, Rob -FS <[rhamilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhamilton@fs.fed.us)> wrote:

Thank you Lisa. I can see that we should have talked more about the seed mix and planting standards when working through the permitting process last year. I'll do that in the future.

So, specifically for the sink hole project let's set the tree/shrub standard at zero.



**Rob Hamilton  
Minerals and**

**Sustainability/Climate Change Programs Manager**

**Forest Service**

**Fishlake National Forest**

**p: 435-896-1022 or 435-896-1620**

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**Caring for the land and serving people**

**From:** Lisa Reinhart [mailto:[lreinhart@utah.gov](mailto:lreinhart@utah.gov)]

**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2017 10:02 AM

**To:** Hamilton, Rob -FS <[rhamilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhamilton@fs.fed.us)>

**Cc:** Vicky Miller <[vmiller@bowieresources.com](mailto:vmiller@bowieresources.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Seed mix to be used on Richfield Ranger District sink hole site

Rob, thank you for your email.

Pursuant to R645-301-356.230 "For areas to be developed for fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, shelter belts, or forest products (which in this case under multiple use it is) success of vegetation will be determined on the basis of **tree and shrub stocking and vegetative ground** cover. Such parameters are described as follows: 356.231.

**Minimum stocking and planting arrangements will be specified by the Division on the basis of local and regional conditions and after consultation with and approval by Utah agencies responsible for the administration of forestry and wildlife programs.** Consultation and approval will be on a permit specific basis and will be performed in accordance with the "Vegetation Information Guidelines" of the division."

To put it simply, there must be a tree/shrub density standard set for bond release purposes. It is my interpretation that since there is not a shrub/tree component in the seedmix, there is not a "standard" or requirement that must be met for bond release. Therefore, as approved by the USFS, the shrub/tree density standard is technical "0".

We can make the assumption that shrubs will become established over time but for the next 10 years, there is not a standard that must be met for wildlife habitat purposes.

I need the USFS concurrence on this in order to complete my permitting review for the sinkhole. Will you please respond back with your concurrence or provide other standards you deem appropriate based on local and regional conditions.

Thank you,

Lisa Reinhart  
Environmental Scientist  
Utah Coal Program  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
(801) 538-5437, (801) 359-3940 (Fax)

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On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 9:44 AM, Hamilton, Rob -FS <[rhamilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhamilton@fs.fed.us)> wrote:

Good morning Vicky and Lisa – As discussed previously, we authorized SUFCO to use the same seed mix on the sink hole site that has been used in the past on exploratory drilling sites. Our rationale for this is that because the sites are small in size we are more interested in quickly stabilizing the soil and know that sagebrush and other brushy species will invade the site sooner or later.

Best Regards...

**Rob Hamilton**



**Minerals and  
Sustainability/Climate Change Programs Manager**

**Forest Service**

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